



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety
and Inspection
Service

Washington, D.C.
20250

JUN 17 2002

Mr. Colm Gaynor
Chief Veterinary Officer
Department of Agriculture and Food
and Rural Development (DAFRD)
Kildare Street, Dublin 2
Ireland

Dear Mr. Gaynor:

Enclosed is a copy of the Final report of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) November 12 - 27, 2001, audit of the Republic of Ireland's meat inspection system. We received by email your Agency's comments on the Draft Final report of the same audit and have incorporated this correspondence into our Final report as Attachment "G."

We appreciate the commitment by the Department of Agriculture and Food and Rural Development (DAFRD) that deficiencies noted during this audit would be promptly addressed and corrected. In reviewing your comments regarding the laboratory deficiencies, it is important that all countries eligible to export meat and/or poultry to the United States enforce a laboratory testing program that meets U.S. import requirements. Exporting countries may implement procedures that are different from the U.S. inspection system provided the alternative sanitary measure meets the level of public health protection established by the United States. Accordingly, exporting countries must obtain an acceptable equivalence determination by FSIS before implementing alternative inspection system procedures.

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed report or the FSIS audit, please contact me at telephone number (202)-720-6400 or facsimile number (202) 690-4040. You may also reach me at my email address (sally.stratmoen@fsis.usda.gov).

Sincerely,

Sally Stratmoen, Chief
Equivalence Section
International Policy Staff
Office of Policy, Program Development
and Evaluation

Enclosure

cc: Aingeal O'Donoghue, First Secretary, Embassy of the Rep. of Ireland, Wash., DC
Peter Kurz, Minister Counselor, U.S. Embassy, London
Mr. Michael Hanley, Agriculture Attaché, FAS, U.S. Embassy, Dublin
John Wilson, Area Officer, FAS
Bob Macke, FAS
Mary Revelt, Minister-Counselor (Agriculture), USEU/Brussels
Gerry Keily, Counselor (Agriculture), EU Mission to the U.S., Wash., DC
Amy Winton, State Department
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Country File-Rep. of Ireland (FY 2002 Audit)

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